

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 115266

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DRAFTED BY EA/K - MR MAYHEW:CHG

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, KS

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT STATEMENT ON ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF
U.S. COMPANIES ABROAD

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF STATEMENT ISSUED TO PRESS MAY 15
ON GENERAL SUBJECT OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES OF U.S.
COMPANIES ABROAD.

QUOTE:

THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE AT THIS
TIME TO AMPLIFY RECENT POLICY STATEMENTS REGARDING
ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY UNITED STATES ENTERPRISES ABROAD.

AS INDICATED IN THOSE STATEMENTS, THE UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT DOES NOT CONDONE ILLEGAL ACTIVITIES BY
AMERICAN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL FIRMS ABROAD. THE
UNITED STATES CONDEMNS SUCH ACTIONS BY U.S. CORPORATIONS
IN THE STRONGEST TERMS. MOREOVER, ANY AMERICAN FIRM OR
INDIVIDUAL MAKING UNLAWFUL PAYMENTS TO OFFICIALS OF
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PAGE 02 STATE 115266

FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS CANNOT LOOK TO THE DEPARTMENT OF

STATE FOR PROTECTION FROM LEGITIMATE LAW ENFORCEMENT
ACTIONS BY THE RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITIES OF EITHER THE

FOREIGN COUNTRY IN QUESTION OR THE UNITED STATES.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT BELIEVES IT WOULD
BE HELPFUL IF HOST GOVERNMENTS WOULD CLARIFY THE RULES
FOR FOREIGN FIRMS IN THEIR COUNTRIES REGARDING POLITICAL
CONTRIBUTIONS AND OTHER PAYMENTS. WE ASSUME THAT THE
INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF OFFENSES BY FOREIGN
AUTHORITIES WILL BE NON-DISCRIMINATORY; THAT THE PENALTIES
WILL BE PROPORTIONATE TO THE OFFENSE; AND THAT PERSONS
OR FIRMS FOUND GUILTY OF IMPROPER CONDUCT WILL BE
TREATED FAIRLY AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.
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